

specimens were transported here last month aboard the *Koyo-Maru*, the training ship of the Shimonseki College of Fisheries.

The specimens include Japanese giant salamanders, Japanese horseshoe crabs, Japanese carp and many varieties, some of them quite rare, of exotic Japanese goldfish. They are now on display in the Aquarium.

#### PLANETARIUM SHOWS SET FOR 1959

"SCOUTING THE SKY" will be the January show at Morrison Planetarium, opening January 7 and running through February 1. Other shows for the first half of 1959 will include, "The Universe and Dr. Einstein," February 4 through March 1; "Life on Other Worlds," March 4 through March 29; "Explorers of Space," April 1 through May 3; "Man on the Moon," May 6 through May 31, and "Fact and Fantasy of the Sky," June 3 through June 28.

#### DIRECTOR ATTENDS AAAS MEETING

ACADEMY DIRECTOR DR. ROBERT C. MILLER attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Washington, D.C., from December 26 to 31. He presided over a panel discussion on the current activities and problems of junior academies of science. Dr. Miller is a member of the Council of the Association and is Secretary-Treasurer of the Pacific Division, AAAS.

W. I. Follett, the Academy's Curator of Fishes, also attended the Washington meeting.

#### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

THE ACADEMY'S CURATOR of Astronomy and Manager of Morrison Planetarium, George W. Bunton will be the speaker at the January Astronomy Section meeting to be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, January 21, in the Student Lecture room.

"An Eclipse in the South Seas" will be the subject. Bunton recently headed an Academy expedition to the South Seas to observe the total eclipse of the sun October 12, 1958. Bunton will describe the scientific preparations for the event and will illustrate his talk with color slides.

The Academy's Student Section has recently started an Astronomy Section for student members, according to Charles F. Hagar, Assistant Curator of Astronomy. Hagar supervises the activities of the future astronomers when they meet each Tuesday at 8:15 P. M. in the Student Lecture room. One project now underway, he said, is the construction of a modern mounting for the section's nine-inch reflector.

Present membership in the student Astronomy Section is 16; it is open to any student who is a member of the Academy's Student Section.

#### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Richard A. Davis  
Mr. Donald D. Haager  
Mr. Donald F. Houghton  
Mrs. Gordon W. Jones  
Mr. Richard J. O'Toole  
Mr. Wendell J. Robie  
Mr. Robert L. Wisner

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Richard Hargreaves  
Dr. John McGee  
Mr. Eric A. Vogt

##### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Donald L. Braff

##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Daniel Buckley

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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(C.A.S. Photo by C. E. Crompton)

BOUND FOR BAJA CALIFORNIA

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# January Announcement

THE REGULAR JANUARY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, January 14, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. An ex-captain of the British Royal Marine Commandos, now living in San Francisco, will present:

## "THE LONESOME ROAD"

COLIN FLETCHER, the Academy's January speaker, is in a position to know about lonesome roads; early last year he walked alone from Mexico to Oregon through California's deserts and mountains. His 1,200-mile trek from one end of California to the other involved many physical obstacles but Fletcher's outdoor background in many countries enabled him to take them in his stride.

He described the physical highlights of his trip in a widely-read series of articles carried in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. During his walk across 600 miles of arid desert, he plodded out over the salt flats of Death Valley to the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere—probably visited previously by only three or four men. Later he climbed to the summit of 14,246-foot White Mountain—just 250 feet short of the highest peak in the continental United States—and then zigzagged up a long stretch of the High Sierra. All along the trail, in desert and mountains, he crossed great tracts of California that remain unknown to most Californians.

There were many reasons for Fletcher's lonesome walk; reasons he will explain in his lecture. One result of the solo trip is that he was able to concentrate on the amazing variety that is wildest California, and he took some 1,500 color slides of this variety.

Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to hear Fletcher's lively account of his trip and to see a selection of his color slides.

## EXPEDITION NOW IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

ON THE COVER, Alan Leviton (on top the truck), Acting Assistant Curator of Herpetology, and Hugh B. Leech (on the side), Associate Curator of Entomology, are shown loading the Travelall truck in which they left for La Paz, Baja California, just a few hours after this photo was taken. Academy Director Robert C. Miller looks on.

The number of expedition members was increased in mid-December by Dr. Ira L. Wiggins, President of the Academy, and early this month by Allyn G. Smith, of the Academy's Department of Geology. The expedition will return to the Academy late this month.

## VORTEX V SET FOR 12 PERFORMANCES

ON OCTOBER 6, Henry Jacobs and Jordan Belson marked up another success for Vortex when they presented it as a major feature of the "International Festival of Experimental Music" held at the World's Fair in Brussels.

Another series of performances—Vortex V—will open at Morrison Planetarium beginning Monday, January 12. Two performances—at 8 and 9:20 P. M.—will be given on this night and on Tuesday, January 13; Monday and Tuesday, January 19 and 20, and Monday and Tuesday, January 26 and 27.

The program of Vortex V will be entirely different from the past four series held at the Planetarium. It will include some major works by European composers of "musique concrete" and electronic music, works which Jacobs and Belson presented in Brussels. In addition, new visual effects are being prepared for Vortex V.

Vortex is sponsored by the Audio-Visual Research Foundation in cooperation with Morrison Planetarium. Admission is \$1 per person, tickets available at the door.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

A PANORAMA of many wild creatures harbored and nurtured by a mid-Western watershed will highlight the February Academy meeting when Leonard Hall presents the Audubon Screen Tour "Waterway Wildlife" at 8:15 P. M., Tuesday, February 17, in May Treat Morrison Auditorium.

Muskrats, white-tailed deer, least bittern, Canada geese, rock bass, cottontail rabbits, red foxes, mink and crayfish are among the animals featured in Karl Maslowski's color motion picture which will be accompanied by sound recordings of waterway dwellers and a narrative and conservation message by Hall.

## HERALD EXPLORES WITH HOPE

DR. EARL S. HERALD, Curator of Aquatic Biology at Steinhart Aquarium, was featured in a recent National Broadcasting Company coast-to-coast television program "Exploring with Hope" which was designed to help the Boy Scouts of America launch a new Explorer Program for high school age boys.

As the title indicates, the star of the show was comedian Bob Hope and appearing with Dr. Herald in support of the star were many Hollywood personalities.

## AUDUBON SHOW PLANNED

IN COOPERATION with KRON-TV, Channel 4, the Academy's Television Department is now developing a special hour-long television program built around the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society scheduled at Asilomar in March.

According to Benjamin Draper, Executive Producer in the Department, the show will probably feature the livelier aspects of bird-watching, nature study and conservation among other concerns of the Society.

If the special show goes according to current plans, some spectacular nature motion picture footage and recorded bird sounds will also be highlighted.

One of the Department's regular programs, "Explorers of Tomorrow," is apparently more popular than ever, judging from the fan mail. In response to regular features of the series, including a different do-it-at-home science project each week, fan mail has increased until more than three times as much is now coming in as was received in previous seasons.

Seven California cities now have "Explorers of Tomorrow" Fan Clubs and dozens of school classes watch the show each week and report on it. Draper predicts this use of the program in connection with classroom work promises a bright future for the series.

## JAPANESE SPECIMENS INSTALLED IN AQUARIUM

IN AN EXCHANGE with the Shimonseki Aquarium in Japan, Steinhart Aquarium recently received some prime examples of Japanese aquatic life. More than 50